



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

1/12

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,202	03/31/2004	W. Todd Daniell	190206-1805	6025
38823	7590	06/16/2005	EXAMINER	
THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP/ BELLSOUTH I.P. CORP 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY SUITE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339			TRUONG, CAM Y T	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2162		
DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/814,202	DANIELL ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Cam Y T. Truong	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## ETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are pending in this Office Action.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knauerhase (US 2003/0023691 A1) in view of Donovan (US 2004/0193722).

As to claim 1, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receive messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. The above

information shows that the sender has received IM addresses of the recipient. The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user. The above information shows that the sender has included a computing device to receive an instant messaging at the sender location (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22),

“receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an email address of a contact” as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receives messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. The above information shows that the sender has received email addresses of the recipient. The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user. The sender is represented as a user. The above information shows that the sender has included a computing device to receive email address of a contact at the sender location (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22),

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the IM address to the single reference identifier (ID)” as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one

or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212.

Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify a recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

“the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact” as specifying m.to ID to identify the recipient. It means that the ID is used to identify the recipient (page 3, col. Right, lines 53-56),

“correlating the email address to the single reference ID” as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since

a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 53-56).

Knauerhase does not explicitly teach "receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a reference identifier (ID) from the user". Donovan teaches in step 100 Bill issues a command to his PC 10 to establish a connection to the Internet 12. In response, in step 102 the PC 10 activates the DUN component 32 that attempts to connect to the SP 14 using a standard protocol such as PPP. In order to gain access, the DUN component 32 sends the user's ID and password to the SP 14's authorization database 42 (step 104). The authorization database 42 checks if Bill is a current and valid user of the SP and verifies the user ID and password. If the user ID and password are correct and Bill's account is active, the DUN connection is verified and Bill will have access through the SP 14 (step 106). If for any reason Bill's status is unacceptable, access to the SP 14 and, through the SP 14, to the IM server 30 is refused (page 3, paragraph [0038-0039]).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Donovan's teaching of receiving Bill's ID from Bill to Knauerhase in order to allow individuals to engage in an instant messaging session even if the individuals are subscribers to different service providers and further to provide instant messaging between multiple IM platforms and further to prevent hacker to access user's account for updating or modifying user's data.

As to claim 2, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an email address of the individual contact" as the sender must keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email addresses and telephone numbers. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24) and

"correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the email address of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56);

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a telephone number of the individual contact" as (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24);

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” as (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56);

“receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an address of the individual contact” as (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24);

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, an address of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” as (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56);

“receiving, by the computing device at the user location, personal information of the individual contact” as (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24);

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the personal information of individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” as (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 3, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

“receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a telephone number of the individual contact” as the sender must keep track of the recipient’s various device addresses e.g., email addresses and telephone numbers. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient’s email address (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“correlating , by the computing device at the user location, the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” a user Rob may have multiple

telephone numbers any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob.

As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212.

Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to these telephone numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 4, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an address of the individual contact" as the sender keeps track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email addresses, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the address of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have voice email and email address, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob.

As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or

more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212.

Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message,  $m$ , intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by  $m.to.ID$ ). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 5, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

“receiving, by the computing device at the user location, personal information of the individual contact” as the sender keeps track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received fax numbers of the recipient. Fax numbers are represented as personal information (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the personal information of individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” a user Rob may have fax numbers, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the

sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose fax numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to fax numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each fax number is correlated to the recipient's ID. These fax numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 6, Knauerhse teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receive messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, intended for a recipient. The above information shows that the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the

recipient. When the sender chooses multiple IM addresses of the recipient, these multiple IM addresses of the recipient are inputted and the routing procedure receives the input. The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22, page 3, col. Left, lines 53-54),

“the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts” as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receive messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. In particular, a user may have accounts on two or more different IM networks that facilitate interoperation between them e.g., a user on IM network X can send/receive IMs to /from a user on IM network Y. Thus, user Rob’s multiple IM addresses are from different IM accounts (page 1, col. Right, lines 10-15; page 3, col. Left lines 2-5),

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, each of the multiple IM addresses to the reference identifier( ID)” as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify a recipient (specified by

m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since each message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

"the single reference ID being adapted to identify the individual contact" to identify the recipient specified by m.toID. It means that the ID is used to identify the recipient (page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

Knauerhase does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a reference identifier (ID) from the user". Donovan teaches in step 100 Bill issues a command to his PC 10 to establish a connection to the Internet 12. In response, in step 102 the PC 10 activates the DUN component 32 that attempts to connect to the SP 14 using a standard protocol such as PPP. In order to gain access, the DUN component 32 sends the user's ID and password to the SP 14's authorization database 42 (step 104). The authorization database 42 checks if Bill is a current and valid user of the SP and verifies the user ID and password. If the user ID and password are correct and Bill's account is active, the DUN connection is verified and Bill will have access through the SP 14 (step 106). If for any reason Bill's status is unacceptable, access to the SP 14 and, through the SP 14, to the IM server 30 is refused (page 3, paragraph [0038-0039]). Donovan also teaches a system that provides instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms. More particular, the system allows individuals to exchange

messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and systems. For example, Bill has an account at Yahoo that is adapted to receive IM message using a protocol. Ted has an account at AOL that is adapted to receive IM message using another protocol. Bill can exchange instant messages with Ted and Rhoda, and Ted and Rhoda can exchange messages with Bill. When Bill talks to Ted, their messages appear in the message area. The above information shows that user accounts being adapted to forward and receive IM messages using different protocols (figs. 1& 5, page 1, col. left, lines 5-10; page 4, col. left, lines 18-24; page 3, col. Right, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Donovan's teaching of receiving Bill's ID from Bill and providing instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms, allowing individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and exchanging instant messages using different protocols from different user accounts to Knauerhase's system in order to allow individuals to engage in an instant messaging session even if the individuals are subscribers to different service providers and further to provide instant messaging between multiple IM platforms and prevent hacker to access user's account for updating or modifying user's data.

As to claim 7, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an email address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24) and

"correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the email address of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple email addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 8, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations

"receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a telephone number of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various

device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference identifier ID" a user Rob may have multiple telephone numbers any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212.

Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to these telephone numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 9, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the address of the individual contact to the reference identifier ID” as a user Rob may have voice email and email address, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient’s ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient’s ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 10, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

“receiving, by the computing device at the user location, personal information of the individual contact” as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient’s various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received fax numbers (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the personal information of individual contact to the reference identifier ID” a user Rob may have

multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose pager numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to pager numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID. These pager numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 11, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, configured to receive first user input, the first user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact" as a software is configured to receive a sender select multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient .The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22, lines 55-61; page 2, col. Left, lines 1-3),

“the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts” as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receive messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. In particular, a user may have accounts on two or more different IM networks that facilitate interoperation between them e.g., a user on IM network X can send/receive IMs to /from a user on IM network Y. Thus, user Rob’s multiple IM addresses can be from different IM accounts (page 1, col. Right, lines 10-15; page 3, lines 2-5),

“correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, and configured to correlate each of the multiple IM addresses to a reference identifier (ID)” as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the

recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

"the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact" as specifying m.to ID to identify the recipient. It means that the ID is used to identify the recipient (page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

Knauerhase does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "second receive, processed by the computing device at the user location, and configured to receive second user input, the second user input comprising a reference identifier (ID), each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol". Donovan teaches in step 100 Bill issues a command to his PC 10 to establish a connection to the Internet 12. In response, in step 102 the PC 10 activates the DUN component 32 that attempts to connect to the SP 14 using a standard protocol such as PPP. In order to gain access, the DUN component 32 sends the user's ID and password to the SP 14's authorization database 42 (step 104). The authorization database 42 checks if Bill is a current and valid user of the SP and verifies the user ID and password. If the user ID and password are correct and Bill's account is active, the DUN connection is verified and Bill will have access through the SP 14 (step 106). If for any reason Bill's status is unacceptable, access to the SP 14 and, through the SP 14, to the IM server 30 is refused (page 3, paragraph [0038-0039]).

In addition, Donovan teaches a system that provides instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms. More particular, the system allows individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially

instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and systems. For example, Bill has an account at Yahoo that is adapted to receive IM message using a protocol. Ted has an account at AOL that is adapted to receive IM message using another protocol. Bill can exchange instant messages with Ted and Rhoda, and Ted and Rhoda can exchange messages with Bill. When Bill talks to Ted, their messages appear in the message area. The above information shows that user accounts being adapted to forward and receive IM messages using different protocols (figs. 1 & 5, page 1, col. left, lines 5-10; page 4, col. left, lines 18-24; page 3, col. Right, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Donovan's teaching of receiving Bill's ID from Bill and providing instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms, allowing individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and exchanging instant messages using different protocols from different user accounts to Knauerhase's system in order to allow individuals to engage in an instant messaging session even if the individuals are subscribers to different service providers and further to provide instant messaging between multiple IM platforms and prevent hacker to access user's account for updating or modifying user's data.

As to claim 12, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location and configured to receive an email address of the individual contact" as a user Rob may

have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message,  $m$ , intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by  $m.to$  ID). The above information shows the system that has included a software to allow the sender to receive multiple email addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56); and

"correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, and configured to correlate the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message,  $m$ , intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by  $m.to$  ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email

address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 13, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

" means for receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an email address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information has received that the sender must receive the recipient's email address (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24) and

"means for correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the email address of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 14, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

“receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, and configured to receive a telephone number of the individual contact” as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient’s various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient’s telephone number (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, and configured to correlate the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” as a user Rob may have multiple telephone number any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient’s ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient’s ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 15, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

“means for receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a telephone number of the individual contact” as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient’s various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender must receive the recipient’s email address (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“means for correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference identifier ID” as a user Rob may have multiple telephone number any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient’s ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient’s ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 16, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations

"receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, configured to receive an address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating logic, processed by the computing device at the user location the address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have voice email and email addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 17, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations

“means for receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an address of the individual contact” as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient’s various device addresses e.g., voice email, email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

“means for correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the address of the individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)” as a user Rob may have voice email and email address, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212.

Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient’s ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient’s ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 18, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

“receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, configured to receive personal information of the individual contact” as the sender must

know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, configured to correlate the personal information of individual contact to the reference identifier ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose pager numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to pager numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID. These pager numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 19, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"means for receiving, by the computing device at the user location, personal information of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"means for correlating, processed by the computing device at the user location, the personal information of individual contact to the reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose pager numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to pager numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID. These pager numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Contact Information***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cam-Y Truong  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2162  
6/1/2005

*SA Alam*  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER